

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: NA/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TO AMERICAN COMMUNITY PLAYED
PROMINENTLY IN TURKISH PRESS.

1. TURKISH PRESS AND RADIO JULY 5 GIVES FAIRLY PROMINENT
TREATMENT TO INFORMAL, OFF-THE-CUFF AND PRIVATE REMARKS BY
AMBASSADOR SPIERS TO AMERICAN COMMUNITY DURING JULY 4 CELEBRATIONS
AT ANKARA AIR STATION (BALGAT). STORIES ARE BASED ON REPORT
FILED BY REUTERS CORRESPONDENT (TEXT BELOW)
WHO HAPPENED TO HEAR REMARKS BECAUSE HE WAS PARTICIPATING
IN A BRITISH-AMERICAN TENNIS TOURNAMENT AT BALGAT. TYPICAL
PRESS HEADLINES WERE CUMHURIYET'S "SPIERS: UNTIL THE EMBARGO
IS LIFTED A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION CANNOT BE FOUND",
AND MILLIYET'S "SPIERS: AS LONG AS THE EMBARGO CONTINUES,
THERE IS NO CHANCE FOR A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM" .

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2. TEXT OF REUTERS ARTICLE FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT: UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR RONALD SPIERS SAID TODAY
HE COULD ALMOST GUARANTEE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SETTLEMENT
OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IF AN AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY
REMAINED IN FORCE.

SPEAKING TO AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN TURKEY DURING FOURTH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS HERE, MR. SPIERS SAID IT WAS HOWEVER STILL AN OPEN QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE THREE YEAR OLD EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED.

THE EMBARGO, NOW PARTIALLY RELAXED, WAS IMPOSED IN 1975 AFTER TURKISH TROOPS USED AMERICAN WEAPONS IN THEIR 1974 INVASION OF CYPRUS IN THE WAKE OF A SHORT LIVED COUP AGAINST ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS.

MR. SPIERS SAID THE SENATE WOULD CONSIDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS'S REQUEST FOR A REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO IN THE WEEK BEGINNING JULY 17, WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TAKING UP THE ISSUE THE FOLLOWING WEEK. HE SAID HE WOULD SOON BE LEAVING FOR HIS THIRD TRIP TO WASHINGTON IN RECENT WEEKS TO HELP THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT ITS CASE FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

MR. SPIERS ARGUED THAT A CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY PREVENT A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION BECAUSE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WHO SUPPORT IT WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO NEGOTIATE, WHILE IT COULD ALSO EMBITTER RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE.

THE GREEKS SUPPORT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS IN SEEKING A CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO, AND MR. SPIERS SAID HE FORESAW A SITUATION WHERE THE TURKS MAY HOLD THIS AGAINST THE GREEKS IF THE BAN CONTINUES.

THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT OF GREEK PREMIER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS, HE SAID, BUT HE FELT THAT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT STABILITY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREECE TO OVERCOME ANY PROBLEMS.

MR. SPIERS WAS SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AT ANKARA AIR STATION, SITE OF ONE OF THE 26 AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES WERE HALTED BY THE TURKS IN RESPONSE TO THE EMBARGO.

THE AMBASSADOR SAID MEMBERS OF HIS AUDIENCE WHO DID NOT DO THEIR PART IN PETITIONING THEIR CONGRESSMEN ON THE ISSUE COULD NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE OUTCOME, WHICH HE SAID WOULD HAVE DEEP CONSEQUENCES FOR THEM ALL. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE ALONG THE LINES OF THE REUTERS REPORT, THE "QUOTATIONS" IN THE TURKISH PRESS ARE NOT IN FACT QUOTATIONS. BECAUSE OF THE INFORMAL AND PRIVATE NATURE OF THE REMARKS, NO TRANSCRIPT WAS MADE.
SPIERS

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